

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /019 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2220

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: US FIRM SUCCESSFUL IN SEIZED OPIUM BID

REF: KABUL 2020 ET. SEQ.

1. MALLINCKRODT CHEMICAL INC, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GOA BID ON APPROXIMATELY 15,000 KILOS SEIZED OPIUM. ECONOMIC COUNSELLOR OBSERVED SEALED BID OPENING APRIL 14 ALONG WITH OTHER OBSERVERS FROM YUGOSLAV AND SOVIET EMBASSIES.

2. US FIRM'S BID OF \$10.12 PER UNIT FOR OPIUM CONTAINING FIVE PERCENT OR HIGHER MORPHINE WAS IGNSIDERABLY ABOVE BOTH YUGOSLAV AND SOVIET BIDS. DEPENDING ON EVENTUAL ASSAYED MORPHINE CONTENT, CONTRACT SIGNED WITH GOA ON APRIL 16 VALUED AT \$1.2-1.5 MILLION.

3. MALLINCKRODT ANTICIPATES BEGINNING SHIPMENT OF OPIUM ABOUT JUNE, 1975, FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE ANALYSIS, SAMPLING AND PACKING RROCEDURES.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS SUCCESSFUL CULMINATION OF LENGTHY AND SOMETIMES BIZARRE BARGAINING PROCESS WITH GOA AND REPRESENTS SECOND PURCHASE SEIZED OPIUM LOT BY SAME US FIRM IN PAST THREE YEARS. ACCORDING MALLINDCKRODT REP, AFGHAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PLEASED AT HIGH PRICE PAID FOR OPIUM WHICH IS

\$1.52 PER FIVE PERCENT MORPHINE UNIT ABOVE NEXT HIGHEST

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BIDDER, YUGOSLAVIA. ALSO, MALLINDCKRODT PLANS TO SHIP VIA

ARIANA AFGHAN AIRLINES WHICH SHOULD NET AN ESTIMATED \$30,000
IN CARGO BUSINESS FOR THE NATIONAL AIRLINE. FINAL BID OPENING
AND AWARD WAS CONDUCTED ON STRUCTLY COMMERCIAL TERMS
WITH NO RPT NO PORITICAL OVERTONES DESPITE FACT THAT BILATERAL
TRADING PARTNERS WERE OTHER TWO BIDDERS. END COMMENT.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PROCUREMENT, OPIUM, PROPOSALS (BID), DRUG SEIZURES
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